

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 2 has been cancelled, claims 1 and 3 have been amended and new claims 8 and 9 have been added. Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending and under consideration.

In item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that dependent claim 2 contains allowable subject matter. Limitations from dependent claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 2 has been cancelled, and the dependency of claim 3 has been corrected.

The Examiner also indicates that dependent claim 5 contains allowable subject matter. Limitations from dependent claim 5 have been used for new independent claim 8. Claim 8 also contains limitations from the claims on which claim 5 depends, claims 1 and 4. New dependent claim 9 contains limitations corresponding to original dependent claim 7.

At least in view of the claim changes and the Examiner's Statement of Allowability, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Jan 6 2005

By: Mark J. Henry
Mark J. Henry
Registration No. 36,162

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Jan 6, 2005
By: Mark J. Henry
Date: 1.6.05